

SENATE BILL 489

By Swann

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 9, Part 1; Title 49, Chapter 8 and Title 49, Chapter 11, relative to programs to reduce recidivism.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

In addition to all other authorized functions of the community colleges and state colleges of applied technology within the board of regents, such facilities are authorized to contract and partner with local governments for the purpose of providing educational and workforce development programs to assist with reducing recidivism rates of criminal offenders held in local correctional facilities and improving opportunities for successful reentry upon release from incarceration.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-404, is amended by adding the following new subdivision (a)(3) and renumbering the current subdivision (a)(3) and subsequent subdivisions as appropriate:

(3) Sheriffs' departments or other officials or departments charged with oversight of a county jail or workhouse for the purpose of developing reentry programs to effectively reduce the recidivism rate of felons and increase the likelihood of successful reintegration into society following release of the individual from incarceration;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5, Chapter 9, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A county may agree, for a determinate period of time, pursuant to an interlocal agreement entered into under § 12-9-104 that relates to the joint development or operation of a transition center.

(b) Any amounts contributed to the transition center pursuant to subsection (a) are revenues of the transition center that may be used for any lawful purpose of the transition center.

(c) As used in this section, "transition center" means a local correctional facility that assists inmates' crossover from jail or prison life to productive citizenship through the use of phases and a series of programs and services designed to equip and empower inmates to make life changes in order to reduce recidivism. The local correctional facility must be operated in accordance with § 41-4-140.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it